(c) Discussion have been held with the State Government and action required to be taken for technological upgradation of looms, provision of linkages for yarn procurement, product development and marketing and provision for training & extension support for upgradation has been decided. Action has been initiated to:—

(i) Supply yarn in Sircilla through NTC as an interim measure;

(ii) Deputed expert staff from office of Textile Commissioner to Sircilla to begin an Extension Counter to the Powerloom Service Centre in Hyderabad and give demonstration on upgraded looms.

(iii) Send a Team from the South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) to provide technical assistance to the above Extension Counter.

(iv) The Powerloom Export Development Council (PDEXCIL) has taken action to enroll members to set up a Powerloom Centre Development Committee (PCDC) in Sircilla.

Alleged sale of *Shahtoosh* by CCIE, Kolkata Branch

1178. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report in the Times of India dated 25th May, 2001 captioned "it's *Shahtoosh* again and it's official" highlighting that the Central Cottage Industries Emporium, Kolkata Branch, has been making clandestine sale of the banned *Shahtoosh* shawl, made from the wool of the endangered Tibetan antelope "Chikru" by adopting unethical business practices;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto, including the details and *modus operandi* of the reported transactions as handled; and

(c) the details of action taken, if any, against the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The matter was inquired into and it was found that the reported transaction did not take place.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Powerloom Service Centres in Andhra Pradesh

1179. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present, district-wise; and

(b) how they have contributed in "upgradation of skills of powerloom workers" in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Two Powerloom Service Centres have been functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the following Districts:

(i) Chittor

(ii) Ranga Reddy

(b) The PSCs organise training programmes to the Powerloom weavers/workers on a periodical basis. The office of Textile Commissioner also supplement their efforts in conducting training programmes. The office of Textile Commissioner has organised training on powerloom weaving, loom maintenance and related technology imparted to 14 Nos. successful candidates at Hassanbada, East Godavari District, in the month of November, 2000 and a similar training programme is under progress at Sircilla, Karimnagar district with special emphasis on *in-situ* upgradation of powerlooms.

Revival of APKKM Mills of NTC

1180. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position of the textile mills coming under the subsidiary company APKKM of NTC pending before the BIFR;